

# RM Minutes

August 7, 2009

---

## ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

### Attendance:

Kevin Brooks

Donna Fuqua

Matthew Swanson

Cindi Brooks

Chuck Mansius

Brenda Dunham

Helen Blankfeld

Ryan Fleming

Chris Kelly

Ed Spear

Elaine Knobloch

Paul Lofgren

Patty College

Jerry Kashatus

Sandi Coleman

Cathy Muha

Lisa Hill

Debby Kennedy

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the July 1, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

The Booster Board made introductions.

### President's Message – Kevin Brooks

The Boosters are currently working hard to get a number of projects off the ground – many of which are challenging as we work through the approval process of MCPS. A number of coaches have contacted the Boosters to pledge their cooperation and support in the upcoming school year.

### Athletic Director's Report – Bob Maxey

Mr. Maxey presented the attendees with a packet of information regarding upcoming events, project updates, financial information and other items of interest.

- The coaches meeting and lunch will be held on August 14 at 1:00 pm. The Boosters will be organizing and serving the lunch.
- Fall team tryouts will begin on August 15 at 9:00 am. All athletes and coaches should report to the gym. There will be two-a-day workouts for all teams this year.
- There have been three new coaches hired for the 2009-2010 season: JV Boys and Girls Soccer and JV Field Hockey
- Discussion was held regarding having an athletic trainer and EMT on site for all games. Currently there is an EMT available for football, basketball and lacrosse.
- The cross country team will not be hosting any home meets due to the lack of appropriate running space surrounding the school, as well as the traffic.

- There was a sprinkler malfunction in the school over the summer, but no water damage was done to the gymnasium.
- The fall potluck dinner will be held on August 26 and the fall awards night presentation will be on November 19. The packet also gave the dates for the winter and spring potluck dinners and awards nights
- The following projects have been completed/installed: the discuss cage, championship wall plaques, fence repair, gym floor refinishing, soccer goal posts, gym sound system, summer fertilizer/aeration of the fields, and weight room mirrors.
- The following projects are pending: batting cages for baseball/softball, tree removal in left field (baseball) and the stadium sound system.
- The wall mats in the main gym will be recovered in September.
- The installation of flagpoles in the stadium and outdoor scoreboards for baseball/softball has been delayed. According to Mr. Maxey, MCPS has decided not to do the installation after they had already approved it earlier in the year. Mr. Maxey plans on hiring outside companies to complete both projects.
- A document outlining the purpose of the RM Athletic Booster Club and the RM Athletic Program was made available to the attendees, as well as a document outlining the expectations of the Athletic Director. The motto for the upcoming school year is "Moving Forward Without Excuses"
- There will be new uniforms for the upcoming school year for the following teams: Boy's and Girl's Soccer, Wrestling, Softball and Co-Ed Volleyball. A uniform rotation system is in place so that each team has a turn in the process.
- An Athletic Department Financial Report for 2008-2009 was made available. Total income by the Athletic Department equaled \$169,202 and total expenses equaled \$165,793, resulting in a closing balance of \$3,439. These numbers include an allocation by MCPS to RM of \$50,131. Funding for future projects on the Athletic Department's wish list will be considered at a later date, based on income received.

### **Treasurer's Report – Ryan Fleming**

The Booster Club's current balance is \$77,626 and approximately \$29,000 has been approved for athletic department projects. Financial documents which will outline Booster revenue and expenses will be available at the September Booster meeting for review.

### **Committee Updates/ Discussion Items:**

- Membership – Chris Kelly reported on the new Booster membership fees for the upcoming school year. The renewal letters and applications have been mailed out to former members and the Pay Pal option on the Booster website is available once again. Chris will be speaking at the coach's lunch on the 14<sup>th</sup> to encourage coaches to work with and support the Booster Club. He will also be networking with team parents at the upcoming potluck dinner and at back-to-school night to recruit new members. He will work with Dolores Barnes and Cathy Muha to coordinate Booster involvement in both of those events.

Merchandise: The merchandise committee is introducing new items and is instituting a new approach to marketing in the upcoming school year. There will be different logos and some spirit-wear targeted to just girls. The basic RM Rockets logo has been re-worked and will appear on a number of items. Some new items include fleece blankets, tie-dyed shirts and capris, to name a few. Re-usable poms will be ordered for games and more seasonal items will be offered later in the year. The initial kick-off of items will happen close to back-to-school night. Because of the start-up costs of reworking all of the spirit-wear, this year may not show a profit, but the goal is to get the word out to all the students. Photos will be taken of all the new items and displayed around the school.

- Events and Outreach: Cathy Muha reported that a comprehensive outreach proposal will be presented at the September meeting. The proposal will include a communications plan to get the word out about the Boosters and to provide information to the students, parents and the community. Discussion was held on the creation of a possible Facebook page for the Boosters. The idea will be discussed further at the next meeting. Cathy and Dolores Barnes will be helping to plan all upcoming Booster events in the coming year and will work on outreach to Julius West Middle School and the elementary schools feeding into RM.
- Website: Brenda Dunham reported that the website is currently up-to-date with all the fall sports schedules. A suggestion was made to create a page on the website to list accomplishments of RM athletes that aren't always formally recognized, such as all-county, 2<sup>nd</sup> team or honorable mention awards from local newspapers and organizations. Chuck Mansius agreed to research awards from last year and will be the point person to provide Brenda with names for the upcoming year.
- Fall Concessions: Volunteers are needed to help Jerry Kashatus with ordering and organizing supplies for the fall season. Most of the teams will be able to work concessions, since JV and Varsity teams play at different times at home. Football games will need more volunteers to work because of the crowds. A suggestion was made to provide concessions on the visitor's side of the field so they don't have to walk all the way over. An additional suggestion was made to contact Home Depot about providing a cart or shed where this can happen.
- Banner Program: The banners from the REAL Maryland soccer season will be taken down to make room for the banners supporting the RM teams. The cost of the banners has risen by \$10 this year because of production costs. A suggestion was made to ask the local candidates in the Rockville elections to purchase banners.
- Back-To-School Night: The Boosters are trying to get approval from the PTSA to give a short video presentation on back-to-school night to pitch the club and make parents aware of all the club has done for the school.
- Alumni Tailgate: Lisa Hill is organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alumni Tailgate Event. The date of Friday, Sept. 25 was chosen for the event and will be the RM vs. Churchill football game. Discussion was held as to the venue for the event.

Some suggestions were to keep it on the cafeteria terrace, move it to the tennis courts or possibly above the stadium near the baseball fields. A commemorative game ticket will once again be provided, as well as dinner and refreshments. Lisa is planning to provide give-aways to alumni and is also looking for volunteers to help her with the event.

### **Old Business:**

- Update on RM Rocket, Plaque and Mural: The plaque depicting the history of the RM Rocket is completed and was unveiled to the meeting attendees. The plaque will be installed at the base of the Rocket. Quotes by the construction company to install the Rocket were provided. The cost of the concrete base is \$6,900. The curved steel to support the Rocket is \$5,000. If a straight steel pole is used, the price will be less. The construction company needs a site plan, which will be obtained from building services. The Rocket will be installed inside the stadium approximately 10 feet from the fence for safety reasons. The base will be painted gold to match the Rocket and the letters RM will be painted in black. The Boosters are currently looking for funding for the installation and will be going out to the community for support.

A sports mural is currently being painted in the stadium on the wall directly below the concession stand by two IB art students. The Boosters have funded this project and they expect to be finished by the time school starts.

### **New Business:**

- The Athletic Department requested that the Booster Club contribute a total of \$9,000 in the coming school year to cover all sports awards, tournament fees and senior-day activities for teams. Discussion was held and members asked for more detailed information on what was spent last year for those items so they could decide whether to make a motion to approve the requested amount. The current Treasurers will work with last year's treasurer and Mr. Maxey to provide that information at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the RM Cafeteria**